

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1136

By Bibb

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Bill Cody on his induction into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as broadcasters and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Tennessee has been blessed with many exemplary citizens who have made significant contributions to the field of country music; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Bill Cody, who was inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame on March 4, 2008, during a ceremony at the Nashville Convention Center; and

WHEREAS, the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame was founded in 1974 and is dedicated to the recognition of those individuals who have made significant contributions to the country radio industry over a twenty-five year period; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Cross Plains, Bill Cody is one of the most recognized voices and faces in country music; his celebrated career in radio broadcasting began when he was a child, and he would deliver tapes of his preacher father's sermons each week to the local radio station. After a while, the station's disc jockeys "adopted" him and showed him the intricacies of radio broadcasting; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky native's professional career in country radio began in earnest in 1971 at WBLN in Lebanon, Kentucky; between 1977-1994, he performed radio stints in Lexington and Louisville, Kentucky; Orlando, Florida; and San Antonio, Texas, before being offered the opportunity to host his own morning radio show at the iconic country music radio station, WSM, in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, from its previous studio location in the Opryland Hotel, Bill Cody began his illustrious tenure with WSM on its AM frequency in April, 1994, with Charlie Daniels serving as his first guest; since then, he has interviewed musicians, actors, and other entertainers, in addition to President George Bush, President George W. Bush, and Captain James Lovell of the Apollo 13 space shuttle mission; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Mr. Cody's radio broadcasting duties expanded to include four years on WSM's FM frequency from 1996-2000, hosting WSM's 75<sup>th</sup> annual birthday coverage, hosting *Jones Radio Networks' Classic*, and emceeding the 2001 Country Music DJ and Radio Hall of Fame induction dinner; today, he can still be heard on WSM-AM as host of a nationally syndicated radio show, *Classic Country Weekend*, in over 220 radio markets and around the world via the Internet; and

WHEREAS, proving he has more than "a face for radio", Bill Cody can be seen, as well as heard, on television as the host of Great American Country TV's (GAC) Master Series and the co-host of *Tennessee's Wildside* on the Public Broadcasting System (PBS); and

WHEREAS, he has also lent his voice and personality to countless country shows on Nashville radio and television, including hosting the nationally syndicated *Nashville Record Review* and *Country's Most Wanted*, hosting the Nashville Today channel for United Airlines and Air Force One, and serving as the public address "in arena" voice for the Nashville Predators hockey team; and

WHEREAS, Bill Cody epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Mr. Cody is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his high school sweetheart and wife of more than twenty years, Rebecca Clutts; he is also appreciative of the support he receives from their three children, Hannah Rebecca Clutts, Luke Clutts, and Levi Clutts; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Bill Cody for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its music-loving citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and applaud Bill Cody upon being inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame, commend him for his peerless contributions to the State of Tennessee and country radio, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.